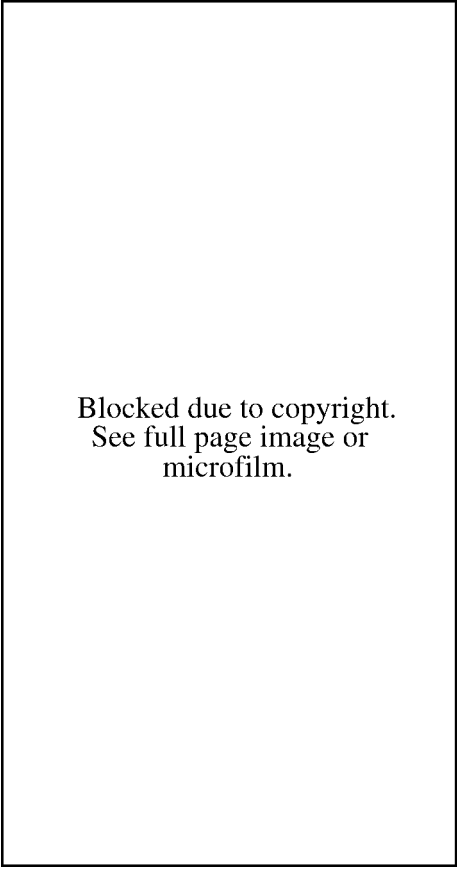


Scarsdale Diet Author Slain; Headmistress Held



ACCUSED— Headmistress Jean Harris, arriving at courthouse today, has been charged with



the murder of "Scarsdale Diet" author Dr. Herman Tarnower at his estate in Purchase, N.Y.
Associated Press photos

She's Seized Driving Out of His Estate

From Times Wire Services

PURCHASE, N.Y.—"Scarsdale Diet" author Dr. Herman Tarnower was shot to death in the bedroom of his ultramodern suburban home here, and the headmistress of a posh Virginia girls' school confessed to the killing today. She was said to be a frequent weekend visitor at Tarnower's estate.

Tarnower, whose work has sold more than 2 million copies since it was published in paperback form in January, was found by a police officer at about 11 p.m. Monday. The officer was called to the home by the doctor's cook.

Police said Tarnower, 69, a cardiologist and internist, was lying unconscious on the floor between two beds, bleeding from gunshot wounds to the right hand, right upper arm and right upper chest. He died at a hospital about an hour later.

Jean S. Harris, 56, of McLean, Va., was taken into custody by Harrison patrolman Brian McKenna as she was driving from the estate shortly after the shooting.

McKenna said that when she saw him, she stopped and told him of the shooting. A .32-caliber pistol was found in the glove compartment of her car.

She was charged with second-degree murder today after a night of interrogation.

Harrison Police Chief William Harris later said she confessed to the crime. "She admitted that she had shot him," the chief said. "I've been here 29 years and this was our fifth murder" in Harrison since then.

The chief described the suspect as "slim, with blonde hair down to her shoulders. She's tall, very well-groomed and very polite. She's one of the nicest ladies we've ever had here in jail."

No motive was established in the killing.

Jean Harris is headmistress of the Madeira School, a private school in McLean, Va., that is now closed for spring vacation. She is listed in Washington's social register as having a home in Carmel, N.Y., not far from this New York City suburb.

She and Tarnower had known each other for some time.

According to the doctor's publisher, Eleanor Rawson of Rawson, Wade Publishers Inc., she was a frequent weekend visitor at the bachelor Tarnower's estate.

She was listed first in the acknowledgements of Tarnower's book, "The Complete Scarsdale Medical Diet."

"We are grateful to Jean Harris for her splendid assistance in the research and writing of this book," wrote Tarnower and co-author Samm Sinclair Baker in the foreword.

The acknowledgements also credited Suzanne van der Vreken, "an imaginative nutritionist and artist, (who) created many of the Gourmet and International recipes . . ."

Police said Van der Vreken lived at the five-acre estate with her husband and served as Tarnower's cook. She apparently summoned police to the home and directed officer McKenna to the bedroom where her employer lay shot.

Tarnower's home, a large structure of Oriental influence made of orange brick and glass, sits atop a hill in the wealthy community of Purchase. From the porch, the view spreads out across gently sloping hillsides to Long Island Sound more than 2 miles away.

The driveway, marked only by a telephone pole with a red "T" painted on it, is edged with trees and a stone wall.

Nearby homes were empty when reporters called today. At two houses a quarter-mile from Tarnower's, neighbors said they had never met the author. Publisher Alfred Knopf lives across the street from Tarnower.